

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: Unknown)
Filing Date: Unknown)
Priority Date: 22 February 2002)
Applicants: SCHUBERT, Gerhard)
For: Packaging Machine)

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Director For Patents
Box: New Application
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This is a preliminary amendment to the enclosed application entitled "Packaging Machine" claiming priority to German Application No. 20103180.9 filed 22 February 2001.

In the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 1, add the header and paragraph as follows:

--CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application claims priority to German Application No. 20103180.9 filed 22 February 2001.--

Page 1, after the title, change "Field of Use" to **--FIELD OF THE INVENTION--**; line 12 delete "II. Technical background" and insert **--BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--**.

Page 2 line 19, delete "a) Technical object"; line 27, delete "b) Attainment of the object" and insert --**SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**--.

Page 5, line 8, delete "c) Embodiments" and insert

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING--;

Page 5, before line 18 insert the following header:

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS--;

Page 5, after the last "Figure 2." insert --The clamping plate 2, 2' has at least one transverse opening 6 at the side 5 in opposite relationship to the side with the projections 3. Especially, the transverse opening 6 extends in plan perpendicularly to the projections 3.--

Page 6 after the last line insert the following paragraph:

--While the invention has been described with a certain degree of particularity, it is manifest that many changes may be made in the details of construction and the arrangement of components without departing from the spirit and scope of this disclosure. It is understood that the invention is not limited to the embodiments set forth herein for purposes of exemplification, but is to be limited only by the scope of the attached claim or claims, including the full range of equivalency to which each element thereof is entitled.--

In the claims

1. (Amended) A packaging machine comprising:
a main frame structure; [and]
active elements (for example conveyor belts, transposing apparatuses, robots)

[which are fixed to the main frame structure by means of];

intermediate elements for affixing the active elements to the main frame structure

[, characterised in that the intermediate elements comprise] including,

profile members [(1)] respectively arranged in pairs in parallel

mutually juxtaposed relationship[,];

[-] clamping plates for holding the intermediate elements [are held] at a defined

spacing [by means of clamping plates (2, 2')], and having [- the clamping plates (2, 2')

have] projections [(3)] which stick up laterally of [the] said profile members[,]; and

[-] a clamping mechanism extending perpendicularly to the longitudinal axis of
said intermediate elements between the profile member for clamping the clamping
plates [are clamped by means of a clamping mechanism (4) which extends
perpendicularly to the longitudinal axis of the intermediate elements between the profile
members (1)].

2. (Amended) A packaging machine as set forth in claim 1 [characterised in that
the] wherein said profile members have narrow sides and [(1)] are flat bar members
whose profile stands on edge[,] and wherein [the] said clamping plates [(2, 2')] are
applied in overlapping relationship to the narrow sides of the two profile members of a
pair and have projections [(3)] which stick up laterally of the narrow sides.

3. (Amended) A packaging machine as set forth in claim 1 [characterised in that
the] wherein said profile members [(1) can] may also be in the form of T-shaped, double
T-shaped, U-shaped, round or quadrangular profile members.

4. (Amended) A packaging machine as set forth in claim 3 [characterised in that] wherein [the interior of the] said profile members have a hollow interior [(1) is hollow].

5. (Amended) A packaging machine as set forth in claim 1 [one of the preceding claims characterised in that the] wherein said profile members [(1)] are of a metal material, in particular steel or iron.

6. (Amended) A packaging machine as set forth in [one of the preceding claims characterised in that] claim 1 wherein at least one of [the] said clamping plates [(2')] has at least one transverse opening [(6)] at [the] a side [(5)] in opposite relationship to the side with [the] said projections [(3)].

7. (Amended) A packaging machine as set forth in [one of the preceding claims characterised in that the] claim 6 wherein said at least one transverse opening [(6)] extends in plan perpendicularly to [the] said projections [(3)].

8. (Amended) A packaging machine as set forth in [one of the preceding claims characterised in that the] claim 1 wherein said clamping plates [(2, 2')] are of a metal material, in particular steel or iron.

9. (Amended) A packaging machine as set forth in [one of the preceding claims characterised in that the] claim 1 wherein said clamping mechanism [(4)] is a clamping screw.

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10. (Amended) A packaging machine as set forth in [one of the preceding claims characterised in that the] claim 1 wherein said clamping mechanism [(4)] has a cam lever.

REMARKS

Attached is clean replacement specification pages and a clean version of the new set of claims as required under Section 1.121.

The application should now be in condition for examination, which is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted
HEAD, JOHNSON & KACHIGIAN

Dated: 22 February 2002

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Headers to be added to Page 1:

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Header to be Inserted into Page 2

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Replacement Headers to be Inserted into Page 5

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Replacement paragraph to be Inserted into Page 5

Figure 1 shows an upper and a lower pair of flat bar members 12 and 13 in cross-section, with the on-edge cross-sections of the flat bar members 1 being arranged in pairs in mutually juxtaposed relationship. Laid on the two narrow sides of the upper and lower pairs of flat bar members 12 and 13 are respective first and second clamping plates 2 and 2' which overlap the narrow sides and have projections 3 which stick up laterally of the narrow sides, whereby the flat bar members 1 are held at a defined spacing from each other. The flat clamping plates 2 which are arranged between the upper and lower pairs of flat bar members 12 and 13 and the pairs of flat bar members 11 also have at the oppositely disposed sides projections 3 which stick up at the narrow sides of the pairs of flat bar members 11, as can be seen from Figure 2. The clamping plate 2, 2' has at least one transverse opening 6 at the side 5 in opposite relationship to the side with the projections 3. Especially, the transverse opening 6 extends in plan perpendicularly to the projections 3.

Paragraph to be Inserted into Page 6:

While the invention has been described with a certain degree of particularity, it is manifest that many changes may be made in the details of construction and the arrangement of components without departing from the spirit and scope of this disclosure. It is understood that the invention is not limited to the embodiments set forth herein for purposes of exemplification, but is to be limited only by the scope of the attached claim or claims, including the full range of equivalency to which each element thereof is entitled.

Clean Version of the Claims

1. (Amended) A packaging machine comprising;
a main frame structure;
active elements (for example conveyor belts, transposing apparatuses, robots);
intermediate elements for affixing the active elements to the main frame structure
including,

profile members respectively arranged in pairs in parallel mutually
juxtaposed relationship;

clamping plates for holding the intermediate elements at a defined
spacing and having projections which stick up laterally of said profile members;
and

a clamping mechanism extending perpendicularly to the longitudinal axis of said
intermediate elements between the profile member for clamping the clamping plates.

2. (Amended) A packaging machine as set forth in claim 1 wherein said profile
members have narrow sides and are flat bar members whose profile stands on edge
and wherein said clamping plates are applied in overlapping relationship to the narrow
sides of the two profile members of a pair and have projections which stick up laterally
of the narrow sides.

3. (Amended) A packaging machine as set forth in claim 1 wherein said profile
members may also be in the form of T-shaped, double T-shaped, U-shaped, round or
quadrangular profile members.

4. (Amended) A packaging machine as set forth in claim 3 wherein said profile
member have a hollow interior.

5. (Amended) A packaging machine as set forth in claim 1 wherein said profile
members are of a metal material, in particular steel or iron.

6. (Amended) A packaging machine as set forth in claim 1 wherein at least one of said clamping plates has at least one transverse opening at a side in opposite relationship to the side with said projections.

7. (Amended) A packaging machine as set forth in claim 6 wherein said transverse opening extends in plan perpendicularly to said projections.

8. (Amended) A packaging machine as set forth in claim 1 wherein said clamping plates are of a metal material, in particular steel or iron.

9. (Amended) A packaging machine as set forth in claim 1 wherein said clamping mechanism is a clamping screw.

10. (Amended) A packaging machine as set forth in claim 1 wherein said clamping mechanism has a cam lever.